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INTELLOFAX

COUNTRY: Union of South Africa

SUBJECT: Communist Influences

Pages: 2

PLACE ACQUIRED: - - - -

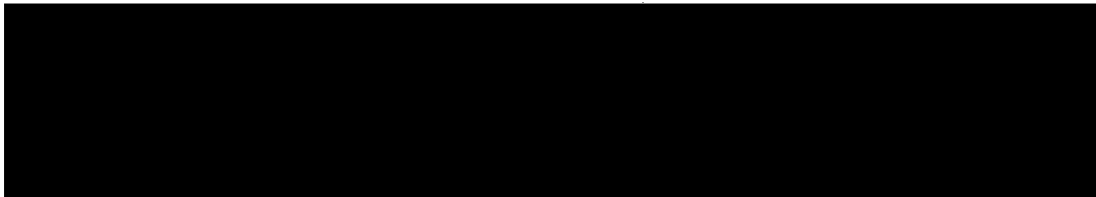
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Jan 54

DATE ACQUIRED: [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO: Summer 1953 and earlier

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US Officials  
[REDACTED] in the interest of  
[REDACTED] and prevent dissemi-  
nation by [REDACTED] report.

1. Although my research concerned pigmy tribes in Bechuanaland, I made other observations which I can compare with my previous trip to the Union of South Africa [REDACTED]

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2. All tribes in Bechuanaland are forced to send annually a number of men to the area between Port Elizabeth and Durban to work in the mines. Although their condition is not slavery, wages are extremely low, and they are forced to remain at work for 18 months. Over the past five years prices of essential commodities in this area have risen, but the salaries remain the same and these natives have barely enough to support themselves. The workers are registered in their tribe, and at their place of employment, and, if they attempt to return to their tribe before the 18-month tour, they are turned over to police authorities. Many who flee are befriended by Communist agents, shielded from the police, and become active Communists. Those who return to their tribes after 18 months have nothing to show for their work, and are extremely susceptible to Communist influences. The tribe has a feeling of helplessness in this problem.
3. It seems that most of the Communist agents in the Union of South Africa are Arab traders or Moslems who have come to South Africa for commercial reasons. Their activities are far more subtle and less organized than the Communist influences in Southwest Africa among the Herreros tribe which was recently augmented by Michael Scott.
4. Communist activities in the Union of South Africa cannot be identified in any way with the Mau Mau activity in Kenya. In the Union of South Africa, I know of no secret societies (excluding the Zulu who are now very small and well controlled by the government). I think most natives in the Union of South Africa are oblivious of the Mau Mau activity in Kenya.
5. I was quite amazed at the industrialization of the southern part of South Africa as compared with my visit in 1951. The influx of Indian

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businessmen is also amazing. These Indians appear quite capable in commercial activities. I would imagine that if they are given equal rights with Europeans, that they will own everything in another 20 years.

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